REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 20040143827 (de Jong). Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Jong in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,713 (Cohen).

Independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16, 21, 25, and 27 include features not taught by the prior art of record. Specifically, claim 1 recites:

> A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:
>
> a first field comprising data representing **a linkage between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method**; and
>
> a second data field comprising data representing the accessibility of the virtual method;
>
> wherein, if an attempt to override the virtual method is encountered, the first field is examined to determine the linkage and the second data field is optionally examined to verify accessibility before granting an override of the virtual method.

De Jong purports to teach methods and apparatuses for linking of virtual methods (de Jong, Abstract). A program is received, it is determined if a virtual method in the program has been overridden at least once, and a virtual jump table is created (Id.). The jump table has the effect of overriding the call instruction that calls the overridden virtual method (Id.). The table includes an address of the virtual method (Id.).

Cohen purports to teach a software development system that creates a product from a core library of source code elements (Cohen, Abstract). A configurator develops configuration state data based on a designated platform type and the source code elements (Id.). A graphical interface displays a logical representation of the product illustrating unresolved dependencies (Id.). The system can generate the product according to the configuration state data (Id.).

Neither de Jong nor Cohen, alone or in combination, teach or suggest **a linkage between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method** as required by claim 1.

There is no mention of **a linkage between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method**, anywhere in the cited prior art.

The Examiner states that de Jung discloses **a linkage between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method** at ¶ 179. However, the cited portion of de Jung merely teaches a data structure for linking a program including virtual methods. The cited portion teaches that the data structure can be used to allow certain virtual methods to override other methods, but there is simply no mention or description whatsoever of a linkage between override-ability and accessibility anywhere in the cited portion as part of that data structure.

The Examiner states that "the address of the code" is the same as accessibility. Applicant admits that the data structure includes an address of the code. However, Applicant respectfully submits that "the address of the code" is simply the location in memory where the code is located, and has nothing to do with accessibility. Who or what can access a particular memory location is completely separate from the memory location itself.

Neither de Jong nor Cohen, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a cache routing index comprising a hash table as required by claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claims 5, 8, 12, 16, 21, 25, and 27 contain similar, but not identical, features as independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 1. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 5, 8, 12, 16, 21, 25, and 27.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26, 28, and 29 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16, 21, 25, and 27, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons cited above with respect to the independent claims. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26, 28, and 29
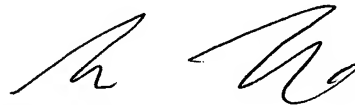
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-29 have been shown to be patentable over the applied prior art. Applicant submits that the case is in condition for allowance, and requests favorable action on the merits.

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